(b) if so, what are the main challenges faced by the Indian Steel Industry; and

(c) what courses of study and research have been introduced at the Institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The domestic steel industry is passing through a difficult time due to low demand, excess capacity of steel production, falling steel prices, high costs of input costs etc. There is also lack of sufficient downstream facilities as well as technicians and better technology. An institute namely Biju Patnaik National Steel Institute (BPNSI) has been set up at Puri (Orissa). Its main activities will be three-fold *viz.* (i) research and development; (ii) training and skill endorsement; and (iii) consultancy services in techno-economic and managerial division.

(c) The courses offered by the Institute at this stage are (i) Development of welding technology; (ii) Steel making technology; and (iii) Courses in computer.

US discrimination towards Indian steel exports

306. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US Govt, is showing discrimination to the Indian Steel exports;

(b) if so, the reasons for such discriminations;

(c) whether the Indian Steel industry is thinking of going to the WTO against the discrimination; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY Of STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The US Department of Commerce initiated ami dumping and anti subsidy proceedings against import of a number of steel related products from Indian *viz.* CTL Carbon Steel Plates, HR steel flat products and CR steel products. It has imposed anti dumping duty of 72.49% and countervailing duty of 12.8% on CTL Carbon Plates and anti-dumping duty between 29.35% and 43.07% and countervailing duty between 8.32% and 31.94% on HR Steel Flat products. Further additional safeguard duties en imports on 16 categories of steel items from India have also been recommended by US-ITC under Section 201 investigations.

(c) and (d) The decision to take a dispute to WTO is taken on a case to case basis. The Government of India has approached the Dispute Settlement Body of WTO against the imposition of anti-dumping duties by USA on import of Cut-To-Length Carbon Quality Steel Plates from India.

SAG scheme for sports

307. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme has achieved the objective for which it was started;

(b) if so, whether it would be continued further;

(c) what are the flaws, if any, noticed in this scheme; and

(d) the remedial measures taken for removing them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHA KRISHNAN): (a) The Special Area Games (SAG) Scheme which was launched with the objective of training talented sports persons scouted from tribal, rural, coastal and remote areas of the country has been successful in achieving its objective as it has produced a number of outstanding sports persons. A few sports persons from SAG who have done India proud are Limba Ram (Arjuna Awardee), Shyam Lai (Arjuna Awardee), Lalremliana, Lalremsanga (Archery); Sanamacha Chanu (Arjuna Awardee), Anita Chanu (Weight Lifting); Dingko Singh (Arjuna Awardee), Z.V. Jollyson (Boxing); Helen Soy, Marystella Tirkey, Vimla Kujur (Hockey); Gunabir Singh (Football) and Johny Romal (Canoeing & Kayaking).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and(d) The SAG Scheme has been functioning smoothly. However, the scheme has been reviewed from time to time. Recently, while formulating the Tenth Five Year Plan, it has been proposed to provide boarding and lodging facilities to the trainees for 330 days from the next financial year against 300 days at present. The diet charges of the trainees have also been increased keeping in view the calorific requirement of the sports persons. The trainees are now given the option of joining the centre both on residential
nd non-residential basis.

National Youth Commission

308. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state: